

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 5, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above claim amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the telephone interview of November 2, 2004.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1-20 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 12 are independent claims from which claims 2-11 and 20, and 13-19 respectively depend. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 1, 12 and 20 have been amended. Claim 2 was amended solely to correct antecedent basis. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found in the application as originally filed in paragraph 35 and elsewhere in the application.

Claim 20 has been objected to as being of improper independent form. Claim 20 has been rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the objection to claim 20.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Douglas (U.S. Patent Number 5,812,977) in view of Wang (U.S. Patent Number 6,505,162) and further in view of Balakrishnan (U.S. Patent Number 6,233,559). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claims 1, 12 and 20 include features that are neither described nor suggested by the cited art, namely, as represented by amended claim 1:

A method of speech recognition processing that provides audible information over a communications device comprising:

- receiving a first speech input at a network server, said first speech input associated with a caller menu system and indicative of a first subject area;
- initiating a first subject application associated with said first subject area;
- receiving a second speech input at the network server, said second speech input associated with the caller menu system, said second speech input indicative of a second subject area associated with a second independent application;
- storing at least one indicator indicating a current processing step of said first subject application; and
- storing a current context associated with said first speech input associated with said first subject application in a context table and audibly outputting said current context upon a user request.

Douglas is directed to a voice-controlled computer system in which subroutines are activated by recognized “initiate task” words. Upon recognition of an “initiate task” word, the system initiates the associated task. Douglas “utilizes a ‘pointer’ such that the system knows, at all time, what specific instruction of the task sequence of computer instructions is being executed”, (Douglas, column 8, lines 3-4). Wang is directed to a hierarchical computer dialog management system on a computer in which a base table defines strategies of sub-dialogs. (Abstract, example, FIGS. 9-11, columns 7-10). Balakrishnan is directed to a computer operating system that receives control words for application programs and addresses the problem of deciding which of the applications should receive a voice command. (Column 3, lines 19-21). A voice command is compared with representations of the voice commands associated with the application program to provide a recognition result. The recognition result is provided to the operating system which sends the input to the application associated with the higher recognition result.

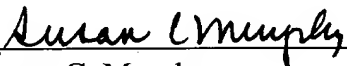
Neither Douglas nor Wang nor Balakrishnan, alone or in combination disclose or suggest at least receiving speech inputs associated with a caller menu system at a network server, and announcing the current context upon a user request, as recited by amended claim 1. Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable. As amended claims 12 and 20 recite analogous features, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12, 20 and the claims that depend therefrom are similarly allowable and request the withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0095/00409
Application No.: 09/870,202
Office Action Dated: September 30, 2004

PATENT

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the Examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Susan C. Murphy at (215) 557-5933, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

Date: December 21, 2004



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Senis Busayapongchai et al.

Application No.: 09/870,202

Filing Date: May 30, 2001

For: Multi-Context Conversational Environment System and Method

Confirmation No.: 7862

Group Art Unit: 2655

Examiner: James S. Wozniak

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DATE OF DEPOSIT: December 21, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Applicant-Initiated Interview Summary

Date of Interview: November 2, 2004

Interview Type: ☐ Personal ☒ Telephonic ☐ Electronic Mail ☐ Video Conference ☐ Other:

Participants:

From PTO: (Include Name and Title)

1. James S. Wozniak, Examiner
- 2.
- 3.

For Applicant:

1. Susan C. Murphy, Attorney
2. , choose one: Applicant, Attorney, Agent
3. , choose one: Applicant, Attorney, Agent
4. , choose one: Applicant, Attorney, Agent

☐ An exhibit or demonstration was included and is described below:

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The claims discussed included: Claim(s) 1 and 12

The ☐ art ☒ prior art discussed included:

Douglas U.S. Patent No. 5,812,977
Wang U.S. Patent No. 6,505,162 B1
Balakrishnan U.S. Patent No. 6,233,559

An agreement ☒ was ☐ was not reached.

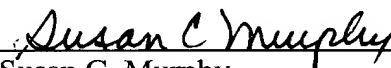
☒ It was agreed that the attached claims are allowable.

☐ It was agreed that the attached amendment would be entered.

☒ The interview is summarized below.

Claims 1 and 12 were discussed with respect to the references Douglas, Wang and Balakrishnan. Agreement was reached that the claims as amended in the attached Office Action Response overcomes the art of record.

Date: December 21, 2004


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